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PRICE LIST OF NURSERY STOCK YEARS 1928-1929

★ JUN 10 1929 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

John Robertson's Nurseries
Hot Springs, South Dakota



MR. ROBERTSON AND HIS ANOKA APPLES

— ANNOUNCEMENT —

The year of 1927 was a very good one with us in the way of fruit production. All divisions of fruit's bore a heavy crop, with the single exception of raspberries. The raspberry canes had been injured by the severe freeze in September of the fall previous, so we were not able to save them even by covering for winter. The apple crop was the largest we have ever grown, amounting to some 5000 bushels; but the size and quality

was hardly equal to the usual high standard in years past. The season appeared to have been too wet and cold for best results.

Several new fruits bore for the first time with us. These are new sorts secured mainly from Experiment Stations in this country and Canada, to try out in learning their comparative value for growing in this section. In this line we had several very interesting sorts of pears bearing the first time, some of which we hope may prove of value for this section. We can arrive at conclusions as to size, appearance, and quality of a new sort the first year it produces; but it takes a number of years to prove its worth in connection with blight, hardiness, vigor, regular bearing, etc. We consider Professor Hansen's Anoka apple a leader as an early bearer, and the tree is quite hardy. This is an early sort, ripening with the Dutchess. His Sasha apple is another promising sort; being a good keeper, medium size, in the sweet class, and tree very hardy. The Goldo is a good quality apple, in season with Wealthy, but the tree will not prove hardy in severe locations. The Amur, Olga, Ivan, Sugar, and Sapinia crabs are all good ones that we have a few trees of each to offer. State whether fruit is preferred for jellies or preserves.

In considering plums we are still of the opinion that the Opata is most valuable for the family orchard; with Waneta, Tescumseh, Kaga, Hanska, Ojibwa, and several others very good in a general way. A new one that appears promising, and quite hardy, is the Oka. The Zumbra cherry is one of the highest grade fruits when cooked. In order to bear well this should be planted in connection with other sand cherry hybrids, such as the Sapa, Oka, Opata, Nicollet, and others of like nature.

Fruit growing is the main issue on this place, with the nursery department conducted as a small side line. All varieties are tested in the orchard as to their worth, in competition with many sorts of their kind, before any are propagated in the nursery to be offered the public. Then too, in doing this way we have not such a large business but what I can personally supervise, seeing that everything is strictly true to name and properly packed.

I have a great interest and liking for this work. I thoroughly believe in it; and my trees and plants are not just sent out for the money value, but with a sincere desire that they will be a benefit to the customer. I write many letters to those asking information, but I cannot write to all as I would like. I appreciate hearing from those who have got nursery stock from me in years past, saying what success they have had. Those who have faith in me and a desire to learn more about fruit growing on the dry lands of the Northwest, will find helpful articles at times in the Horticultural Department of "The Dakota Farmer" published at Aberdeen, S. D.

VARIETIES TO PLANT

For the family orchard there should be a few early apples as well as some of the later sorts; but it is usually a mistake to plant very many of the early maturing sorts. There should be a variety of crabs, as most in this line are hardy and do well. Plant more of the Wealthy than any other apple sort. Plums, and small fruits such as currants and gooseberries are easily grown and come into bearing early. Raspberries are the choicest of fruits, and may be grown very successfully by giving attention to keeping down surplus sprouts, and winter protection where needed.

SIZES AND TRAINING

I advise choosing one and two year old nursery stock for general planting. Exceptions to this rule may be allowed where few trees are being set. Small stock costs less, is more easily handled and planted, and makes a quicker recovery in starting new growth. Then too, small trees are more easily trained in forming a head at the desired height. Low headed trees bear earliest produce the most fruit, and live longest; besides being the most easily pruned, sprayed, and picked. They are least affected by winds and sunscald.

PLANTING

Early spring is the time to plant in the dry northwest. Apple trees

should be planted not less than 30 feet apart each way, so as to allow for spread of roots in search of moisture as the tree grows larger, without competition with the roots of other trees or plants. After a tree becomes established its roots always extend as far in all directions as the tree is high, often reaching much farther.

As a rule it is a good method to plow the orchard site quite deeply, making a deep deadfurrow where each row of trees is to be. Dig wide and deep holes, especially if the soil is hard. Use fine, moist surface soil to fill around roots, setting the tree about the same depth it grew in the nursery, but leaving a basin of some extent around it to catch water from rains. This plan is especially good where there is a slope that allows water to run off. Do not allow basin to fill in by cultivation for the first few years. When finally leveled up the tree is some deeper than it grew in the nursery. All limbs of newly set trees should be cut back about two-thirds of last years growth.

One row of small fruits may be set midway between each two rows of trees, and dug out in say ten years, when the trees are large enough to require all the moisture that falls between. Some little crop, like potatoes and garden stuff, may be grown in the orchard the first two or three years, but never plant anything close enough to take the moisture the trees may reach with their roots. Never allow weeds to grow at any time; you need the moisture for your trees. These rules are mainly for growing fruits with the natural rainfall on dry subsoil land.

ORDER EARLY

Do not wait until it is time to plant before ordering. We fill orders in rotation according to the date they were booked, so we sometimes run short of some items for filling late orders in full. The stock that you get from us is all grown at home. We do not practice the common custom of buying from other nurseries at wholesale in lines we may run short in, so when a variety is all taken that is the end of it. We acknowledge each order when received, mentioning anything we cannot fill in. This gives you a chance to get it somewhere else, if you are not too late. The seasons vary, but as a rule we begin shipping shortly after April 1st. Trees and shrubbery planted during April generally do better than that set after May 15th.

PARCEL POST

Those living at a distance from the railroad can get very good service by parcel post. It is most convenient to send the smaller sizes this way; but by cutting the tops back as they should be after planting, we can mail pretty fair sized stock. Those ordering this way should make allowance for postage.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Five of one kind, and ten of not over three varieties at ten rates. Not over five varieties allowed at fifty rates. Where long lists of one or two of each sort are wanted, they must be paid for at single rates. No orders booked or shipped until paid for in full. Send enough money to cover cost of sizes and sorts of your choice, saying if you will allow us to substitute other sizes and sorts for what we may be out of. It is not my intention to substitute without permission; but if you are very particular about this part you will favor me by mentioning it. Any balance due a customer is returned not later than date of filling his order. We do not try to retain all money by suggesting that the customer take something he has not asked for. Each one is notified by letter at time his stock is sent, whether by mail or express. If there is anything the matter in way of complaint at time you receive stock, notify me at once. We do not replace "free" nor at "half price," but if I have any reason to think there has been a mistake or fault at this end of the line we will make it good, either by returning the price paid or in other stock.

Address all orders to John Robertson, Box 237, Hot Springs, South Dakota

VARIETIES AND PRICES

APPLES AND CRABS—Named in the order of ripening: Yellow Transparent, Anoka, Duchess, Hibernial, Wealthy, McIntosh Red, Jewell's Win-

ter, Ben Davis and Gano; and the crabs, Whitney, Florence, Dolgo, Amur, Olga, Ivan, Sugar, and Sapinia.

2 to 3 feet size, 30c each; per 10 \$2.75; per 100 \$25.00

3 to 4 feet size, 50c each; per 10 \$4.50; per 100 \$35.00

4 to 6 feet size, 70c each; per 10 \$6.00; per 100 \$50.00

We have a few each in Monona, Salome, Windsor, Chief, Sasha, Goldo, Lobo, and others, that are promising sorts.

CHERRIES—We have the common red, and black; also the new Zumbra to offer in 2 to 3 feet size, at 50c each; per 10 \$4.50. Larger sizes at 75c each, per 10 \$6.50.

PLUMS—We have the Opata, Sapa, Oka, Waneta, Kaga, Tecumseh, Hanska, Pembina, Ojibwa, Yuteca and Wastesa to offer. 2 to 3 feet sizes, 50c each; per 10 \$4.50. 3 to 5 feet size 70c each; per 10 \$6.00.

GRAPES—We have the Monitor, Dakota, and Suelter, named in the order of ripening, and hardy without winter cover. Price 30c each; per 10 \$2.50. These are strong growers, bearing medium sized fruit, not of first class quality.

GOOSEBERRIES—The Carrie is a medium sized berry, and very dependable. The Josselyn is one of the largest in berry, and very good. Price strong two year old plants 25c each; per 10 \$2.00.

CURRENTS—The Wilder, Diploma, and Perfection are of the largest size and about the same time in ripening. The Franco-German is later, and smaller but is one of the most vigorous under hard conditions, and is valuable as a late sort. Perfection bears fine fruit, but lacks in vigor. Wilder, and Diploma are the best of sorts bearing the largest fruits, and we have most plants in these. Price, strong 2 year old plants, 25c each; per 10 \$2.00. Smaller plants, 20c each; per 10 \$1.50. Good average plants, per 25, \$3.50.

RASPBERRIES—The Latham is my leader as the best red sort for market, and we can supply plants of this in quantity. Price, good plants. 10c each; per 10 85c; per 25 \$1.50; per 50 \$2.50; per 100 \$4.00; per 500 \$15.00.

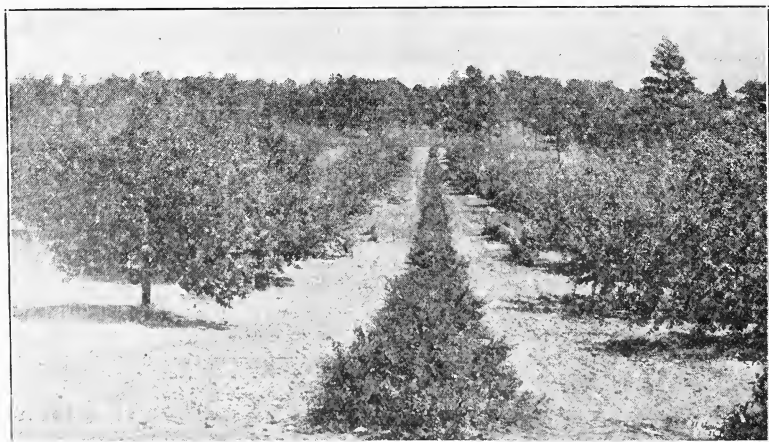
STRAWBERRIES—While we have a few surplus plants of good varieties to spare this year, we do not have enough to offer to the general public.

PURPLE AND WHITE LILACS—Price good plants, 25c each; per 10 \$2.00.

ROSES—Rosa Rugosa Tetonkaha, and Harrison's Yellow. All hardy without winter protection. Price 40c each; per 10 \$3.50.

PEONIES—Festiva Maxima, white; Rubra Superba, and Rubra Triumphans, red; and a few other sorts in various colors. State color wanted, and a named sort will be sent to fit. Price 50c per plant from division roots.

SPIREA, AND SIBERIAN ALMOND—A few in each, at 25c per plant; per 10 \$2.00.



Apple Trees 40 feet apart with row of small fruits midway between. Row of small fruit is removed in from 12 to 15 years allowing all moisture for apple trees.